

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Because of the time restraints of modern life recording for later viewing of broadcast TV is a must. Without that ability I may as well not have a TV. The use of this flag will make recording a show, guess work.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

One of the advances in technology has brought us the personal digital video recorders, the next generation VCR. Also there are several network devices to allow watching shows in variuos places thru out the home. All of these advances would be unusable if the digital flag were to be used.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

With the information presently available, I see no constraint to use of exsisting equipment. However the life span of most consumer electronics is 2 or 3 years. Replacement of this equipment will make the use of the flag a concern in the future.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Much of the development in the consumer electronics field have been for the conviniece and quailty for the consumer. If the flag is put into effect then both of these factors are going to be under the control of the content maker, not the end user. If the end user cannot control how they use the equipment, there is no reasion to buy new. And if no one is buying new then the manufactors have no reason to put out capitol expense to develop new technology.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Any time a new feature is added to any device the price will reflect the additional cost of manufactor. People are more likely to pay the increase, if they see a benifit.

Other Comments:

I believe that the cost both materialy and in convience far outweighs the advantages the broadcast flag will bring. The problem, pirating of content, that the entertainment industry is trying to control by using this technology is real. However this method of dealing with it is not the answer, just a quick fix that will hurt the people.